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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/830,054	04/23/2004	Masanobu Ohsaki	024536-0144	8724
22428	7590	01/19/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP				KIRKLAND III, FREDDIE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007				
				ART UNIT
				PAPER NUMBER
				2855

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HFA

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/830,054	OHSAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Freddie Kirkland III	Art Unit 2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 5,6,8,9,15,16,18 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,7,10-14 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-19 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of copending Application No. 10/830,065. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the current application are met as set forth in application 10/830,065. The calculation section, as

stated in the independent claims of the current application, calculates data indicating an average correlation between said diagnosis data and said threshold, to cancel the misfire judgment, based on a result of the comparison between said data indicating the average correlation and a threshold for cancellation judgment. This limitation is met as set forth in claims 7 and 15 of the copending application 10/830,065.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-4,10-13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. U.S. Patent 5,862,507 in view of Tomisawa U.S. Patent 5,507,180.

With respect to claims 1, 10 and 11, the Wu et al. reference teaches a misfire detection apparatus comprising: an operating condition detector for detecting engine operating conditions (figure 1 crankshaft sensor 38, col.6 lines 54-67); and a calculating section (figure 1, ECU 50) wherein said calculating section: calculates diagnosis data indicating a variation of said engine rotation speed (figure 3 signal processing block 74,

col. 8 lines 62-66, the signal processing block extracts the average and fluctuation from the engine speed signal) and also calculates a threshold based on said engine operating conditions (figure 3 dynamic threshold block 88, col. 10 lines 36-61 the threshold and decision block estimates normal and misfire information and generates a dynamic threshold for misfire determination purposes), and judges whether or not a misfire occurred, based on a first comparison between said diagnosis data and said threshold (col. 10 lines 58-61, comparison and decision block compares threshold to input which represents engine diagnosis data); and also calculates data indicating an average correlation between said diagnosis data and said threshold (figures 3 –7 and col. 10 lines 36-61, average engine speed diagnosis data from signal processing block 74 is compared to a dynamic threshold to determine if a misfire occurred).

But Wu et al. fails to teach a second comparison used to cancel misfire judgment based on average correlation data and a threshold for cancellation.

Tomisawa teaches a misfire detection system where a second comparison (step 9) is used to determine whether or not there are rough road conditions. If there are rough road conditions then don't determine that there was a misfire, and if there aren't a misfire determination can be made (figure 3).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the second comparison from the Tomisawa teaching in the teaching of Wu et al. in order to eliminate erroneous values or detections from the misfire detection method so that the method is more accurate (Tomisawa col. 1 lines 66-77 and col. 2 lines 1-4).

With respect to claims 2 and 12, the Wu et al. reference teaches a calculating section calculates a ratio between an average value of said diagnosis data (averaged diagnosed data input into dynamic threshold and decision block 88 from signal processing block 74) and an average value of said threshold (the dynamic threshold is determined from averaged data, therefore since this process is continuously running the threshold is also averaged), as said data indicating the average correlation (the comparison and decision block in figure 7 gives a continuous comparison between threshold and averaged diagnosed data).

With respect to claims 3 and 13, the Wu et al. reference teaches comparing the average diagnosed data and threshold values, met as set forth in claim 2, but fails to teaches a calculating an average value of ratios between said diagnosis data and said threshold, as said data indicating the average correlation.

Nevertheless it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have averaged the ratios between the diagnosed data and thresholds because the modification would enhance system accuracy.

Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. U.S. Patent 5,862,507 in view of Tomisawa U.S. Patent 5,507,180 further in view of Remboski et al. U.S. Patent 5,841,025.

With respect to claims 4 and 14, Wu et al. in view of Tomisawa fails to teach a calculating section calculates said threshold for cancellation judgment according to an engine load and the engine rotation speed.

The Remboski et al. reference teaches a misfire threshold that is determined as a function of engine load and speed (col. 5 lines 30-32).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the threshold calculating method from Remboski et al. in the apparatus of Wu et al. in order to improve threshold strategy that enables misfire detection over a wider variety of vehicular operating conditions (Remboski et al. col. 3 lines 2-4).

Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. U.S. Patent 5,862,507 in view of Tomisawa U.S. Patent 5,507,180 further in view of Aono et al. U.S. Patent 6,907,341.

With respect to claims 7 and 17, Wu et al. in view of Tomisawa fails to disclose a calculating section prohibits the cancellation of misfire judgment, when a misfire frequency during a period of time where said average correlation is obtained, is equal to or above a predetermined value.

The Aono et al. reference teaches a signal-processing means combined with judgment means that filter out misfire frequencies using two filters.

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the misfire frequency method from Aono et al. in the device of Wu et al. in order to accurately detects misfire even in cases where the vehicle is driven over a rough road surface and or in situation involving noise such as jolts of the vehicle body, by using two filters to extract the intended frequency components more effectively (Aono et al col. 2 lines 15-20).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 5,6,8,9,15,16,18, and 19 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4,7,10-14, and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With regards to claims 7 and 17, the examiner understands that the filing date of the Aono reference is after the foreign filing date of the applicants application, but until a English translation is submitted, the rejection will stand.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2855

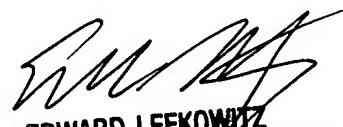
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Freddie Kirkland III whose telephone number is 571-272-2232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FKIII

1/17/2006



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